AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein said cell-free system comprises a bacterial cell-free extract~~ A method to increase RNA synthesis from a DNA template comprising:

a) providing a cell-free system comprising a bacterial cell-free extract;

b) adding a DNA template comprising a strong bacterial promoter with at least one UP element to said cell free system; and

c) recovering said synthesized RNA,

wherein the ratio of an α subunit of RNA polymerase to other subunits concentration in said cell-free system is increased as compared to the conventional ratio of two α, one β, one β′ and one σ.

3. (currently amended) The method according to Claim [[1]] 2, wherein the strong bacterial promoter includes a

sequence from the *argC* gene promoter of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*.

4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said cell-free system further comprises a purified thermostable RNA polymerase holoenzyme.

5. (original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said thermostable RNA polymerase holoenzyme is from *Thermus thermophilus*.

6. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the concentration of said α subunit of RNA polymerase is increased by adding a purified α subunit of RNA polymerase to the bacterial cell-free extract.

7. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said purified α subunit is added to a final concentration between 15 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml.

8. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the bacterial cell-free extract is prepared from cells overexpressing a gene encoding an α subunit of RNA polymerase.

9. (previously presented) A method to increase the production of a protein from a DNA template in a cell-free system comprising:

a) providing in a reaction mixture, a bacterial cell-free system;

b) adding to the reaction mixture the DNA template encoding a desired protein and a purified α subunit of a RNA-polymerase; and

c) recovering the produced protein

wherein the DNA template comprises a strong bacterial promoter with at least one UP element.

10. (currently amended) The method according to Claim [[9]] 28, wherein said added RNA polymerase is a thermostable RNA polymerase from *T. thermophilus*.

11. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said purified α subunit is added to a final concentration between 15 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml.

12. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a DNA-binding regulatory protein is further added to the reaction mixture at step (b).

13. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said DNA template comprises an amplification product of an Open Reading Frame encoding the desired protein.

14. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA template further comprises an

additional DNA fragment, which is at least 3 bp long, located immediately downstream of the stop codon of said Open Reading Frame.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA template further comprises an additional DNA fragment containing a transcriptional terminator.

16. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein said transcriptional terminator is a T7 phage transcriptional terminator.

17-27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a thermostable RNA polymerase is further added in step b).

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the promoter comprises a sequence from nucleotide at position -89 to nucleotide at position +1 of the *argC* gene promoter of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, when position +1 is the first nucleotide in mRNA of the *argC* gene.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the strong bacterial promoter with at least one UP element is from the argC gene of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*.

31. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the strong bacterial promoter includes sequence from ~~at position~~ nucleotide at position -89 to nucleotide at position +1 of the *argC* gene promoter of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, when position +1 is the first nucleotide in mRNA of the *argC* gene.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein said additional DNA fragment is longer than 100 bp.

33. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein said additional DNA fragment is longer than 200 bp.

34. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said purified added α subunit of RNA polymerase is different from an α subunit present in the bacterial extract.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein said purified added α subunit is from *E. coli, T. maritima or T. neapolitana*.

36. (currently amended) The method according to Claim [[1]] 2, wherein the UP element is a AT-rich region around 18-20 bp long.

37. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said bacteria cell-free extract is from *E. coli* cells.

38. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 37, wherein said *E. coli* cells are ~~K12A19~~ K12 A19 cells having a *rna*19 *gdh*A2 *his*-95 *rel*A1 *spo*T1 *met*B1 genotype.

39. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the purified added α subunit is purified from cells overexpressing a gene encoding an α subunit of RNA polymerase.

40. (previously presented) A method for RNA or polypeptide synthesis from a DNA template comprising:

a) providing a bacterial cell-free extract;

b) adding a DNA template comprising a strong bacterial promoter with at least one UP element to said cell extract, and

c) recovering said synthesized RNA or polypeptide;

wherein the ratio of an α subunit of RNA polymerase to other subunits concentration in said cell-free system is increased as compared to the conventional ratio of two α, one β, one β′ and one σ, by adding in said bacterial cell free extract a purified α subunit of RNA polymerase prepared from cells overexpressing a gene encoding said α subunit of RNA polymerase.